



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission  
for the Mediterranean  
Commission générale des pêches  
pour la Méditerranée

# Integrating Diverse Perspectives: Experience of the GFCM

*By the GFCM Secretariat*

**CBD Regional Consultation on the Post-2020 Global  
Biodiversity Framework for Central and Eastern Europe**

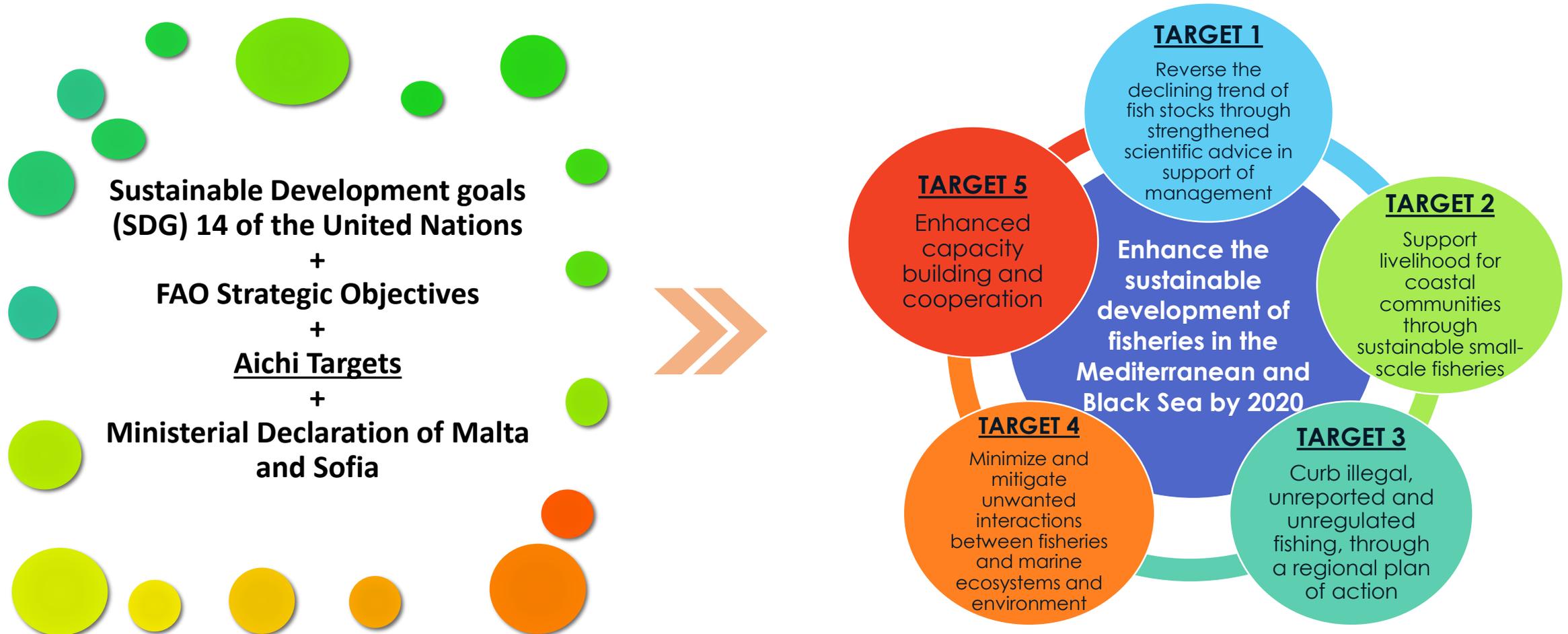
Belgrade, Serbia, 16-18 April 2019

# OVERVIEW OF THE GFCM

- Year of establishment : 1949
- Objective
  - Ensure the conservation and sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources
  - Ensure the sustainable development of aquaculture
- Area of application
  - The Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea
- Membership
  - **24 Contracting Parties:** 19 Mediterranean States, 3 Black Sea States, EU and Japan
  - **5 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties:** Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Jordan, Moldova & Ukraine
- Key functions
  - Adopts binding recommendations
  - Contribute to marine spatial planning and level playing field



# THE MID-TERM STRATEGY TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABILITY OF MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA FISHERIES (2017-2020)



# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MID-TERM STRATEGY WITH STRAINTH OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE: KEY RESULTS OF FISH FORUM 2018 1/3

## WHY:

Advice formulation should be reinforced by addressing gaps and weaknesses in available information

## HOW:

The target 1 of the Mid-Term Strategy identified on the creation of the Forum on Fisheries Science (**10-14 December 2018**, FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy)

Together the wider community of scientists and experts working on fisheries and the marine environment in the Mediterranean and Black Sea in order to build a **lasting network**, discuss **advancements in research**, integrate scientific knowledge in support of decision-making and identify research priorities for the coming decade.

Discussions were based on three thematic following the SDGs 5, 8, 14 taking in particular attention to the Aichi Targets 6 and 11

- THEME 1 -

- THEME 2 -

- THEME 3 -

**BETTER SCIENCE FOR BETTER  
ADVICE**

**HEALTHY SEAS & SUSTAINABLE  
FISHERIES**

**ECONOMIC ANALYSIS &  
TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIETAL  
BENEFIT**

## Statistics

- Over **470 participants**
- More than **40 nationalities**
- More than **300 abstracts** received
- **7** technical workshops and **9** side events
- **108** scientific oral contributions
- **120** posters presented
- **30** partners (IGOs, NGOs, Private companies)

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MID-TERM STRATEGY WITH STRAINTH OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE: KEY RESULTS OF FISH FORUM 2018 2/2

General conclusions presented by thematic sessions :

## Theme 1 “Better science for better advice”

- Management issues
- Emergence of new technologies
- Enhancing cooperation

## Theme 2 “Healthy seas and sustainable fisheries”

- Ocean acidification and warming
- Non-indigenous species
- Marine litter
- Interactions with vulnerable species

## Theme 3 “Economic analysis and technology for societal benefit”

- Effective organizational structures of fishers
- Better seafood traceability
- Standardization of data format and transmission methods for fight against IUU fishing
- Managing recreational fisheries

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MID-TERM STRATEGY WITH STRAINTH OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE: KEY RESULTS OF FISH FORUM 2018 3/3

## General conclusions targeting biodiversity

In the context of management issues :

- *Managing simultaneously such a diversity of environmental and anthropogenic issues other than fisheries (climate change, pollution, eutrophication, mining, invasive species, etc.), requires creative solutions to ensure **biodiversity conservation and fisheries sustainability**;*
- *Biodiversity is not only about the number of species, but else is a complex issue in which both the species and their effect on the ecosystem has to be analysed. **Biodiversity is at the basis of some of the services offered by marine ecosystems and changes in biodiversity may affect the services provided.** There are many misunderstandings with the definition and that complicates its management;*
- *Further thought is needed on how to deal **with non-indigenous species**. In terrestrial science, changes can be directly observed, however for ocean science, there is a need to understand better this complex problem.*

## Future challenges

- **Science for the future**
- **Manage the ocean better**
- **Develop a science initiative for ocean stewardship** (includes Develop Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) at country (and also international) level and develop partnerships between all actors as CBD and IOC UNESCO)
- **Awareness, capacity building and education**

# COOPERATION WITH UN ENVIRONMENT/MAP

GFCM and UN Environment/MAP have signed the MoU in 2012 that includes 5 areas of cooperation

## Examples of tangibles results of the cooperation :

- sustainable ecosystem based management of fish stock and impacts of fisheries on ecosystems and protection of threatened species and habitats;
- managing pressures interacting with effects of climate change and ocean acidification;
- controlling pollution (pollution from aquaculture activities, marine litter, etc.);
- area based management measures (for example for SPAMIs and FRAs).

Participation and full involvement of SPA/RAC in the GFCM Working Group on Marine Protected areas (WGMMPA) and Working Group on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (WGVMA).

Finally, further work towards the adoption of regional complementary strategies to accelerate progress towards the implementation of UN SDG 14 and Aichi Targets in line with common goals and specific mandates of the respective RFBs and RSCs.

# FUTURE STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES OF THE GFCM

The GFCM is performing the second performance review following the practice established by the United Nations General Assembly for all RFMOs

The review will focus on :

- Legal and Institutional aspects;
- Scientific and technical aspects.

Taking into consideration issues such as: **the establishment of protected areas**; the conservation of vulnerable marine; **ecosystems**; the integration of monitoring, control and surveillance technologies, the interrelations between fisheries and aquaculture and the implementation of a **sub-regional approach to management**, most notably in the Black Sea area

In the context of the preparation of the **GFCM High-Level conference on MedFish4Ever Initiative** (11-12 June 2019, Marrakech, Morocco) a questionnaire is being circulated among GFCM CPCs to take stock of the implementation of the MedFish4Ever Declaration and Mid-Term Strategy. It will allow the identification of the future actions including the next GFCM Strategy post 2020



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# Thanks for your attention